



Gehry Partners LLP, "Miss Brooklyn," architectural plans and model for Atlantic Yards, 2006. Courtesy of FOGA.

Perhaps standard urban plans are beyond reproach and have not been a focus of serious intellectual inquiry because there is a general acceptance that the traditional concept of streets and blocks should serve as the conceptual core of any city-building effort.

But what this lack of critical focus and commentary means is that the specific dimension, pattern, and logic of these streets and blocks are not questioned. Ironically the New Urbanism, in its focus on suburban and small-town development, has a much more advanced and self-critical agenda (although New Urbanism's practice models and paradigms are ill-equipped for large-scale urban development).¹ More significantly, in the disciplinary and conceptual division between urban